'Mr. Average Voter' decides

Sun-Times Bureau

WASHINGTON — After months of agonizing and leaning from one side of undecided to the other, Richard J. Johnson of Rolling Meadows finally voted for President Nixon Tuesday.

RICHARD J. JOHNSON

Johnson, selected by national public television to be Mr. Average Voter, said it was the first time in many years that he voted for a Republican presidential candidate.

"I appreciate the sincerity and dedication of the man (Sen. George McGovern)," said Johnson. "I just thought, if McGovern got elected, he would have a more difficult time getting his program through. He doesn't have as much support for his ideas.

"I admit, there are some things I wish Nixon would do that McGovern is for, but on balance Nixon has done a commendable job."

Principally, he said, he hopes that Mr. Nixon will end the Vietnam War quickly.

Besides Mr. Nixon, Johnson voted for Republicans Sen. Charles H. Percy and Rep. Philip M. Crane. He said that he voted Democratic for all other offices, including Illinois governor and Cook County states attorney.

Selected on the basis of his income and his neighborhood to represent the views of middle-income voters, Johnson had twice been the subject of national public television programs, in January and September.

He was undecided, but leaning to Mr. Nixon, on both occasions. In an interview Monday evening, he had said he had been leaning to McGovern in late October, but was "undecided."